

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

ANDREA C. MERGENS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Civil No. C20-6111-SKV

ORDER OF REMAND

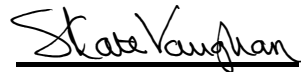
Based on the stipulation between the parties, it is hereby ORDERED that the above-captioned case be REVERSED and REMANDED for further administrative proceedings including a *de novo* hearing pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will issue a new decision. Upon remand, the Appeals Council will instruct the ALJ to further develop the record and:

- reevaluate the medical opinion evidence and treatment notes;
- assess the severity of Plaintiff's Hashimoto's disease, Epstein-Barr virus, and Raynaud's syndromes, as well as their corresponding limitations;
- consider the evidence in accordance with Social Security Ruling (SSR) 14-1p for cases involving Chronic Fatigue Syndrome;

- reevaluate Plaintiff's subjective complaints;
- reevaluate Plaintiff's maximum physical and mental residual functional capacity as required by SSR 96-9p;
- reconsider the lay witness evidence;
- proceed with the remaining steps of the sequential evaluation process;
- as needed, obtain supplemental vocational or medical expert evidence to determine whether Plaintiff could still do her past relevant work, or other work existing in significant numbers in the national economy;
- offer Plaintiff the opportunity for a hearing, and take any further action needed to complete the administrative record and issue a new decision.

The parties agree that reasonable attorney fees may be awarded under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, upon proper request to the Court.

DATED this 13th day of October 2021.



S. KATE VAUGHAN  
United States Magistrate Judge

Presented by:

s/ L. Jamala Edwards  
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